

Caring for Your Sick Dog

Caring for Your Sick Dog: Tips and Tricks

If your furry friend isn't feeling well—maybe they're throwing up or dealing with some diarrhoea—don't panic! These issues are pretty common and can stem from a variety of causes like infections, sneaking snacks from the trash, or simply eating something outside of their regular meals.



A Quick Note on Food:

It's best to avoid feeding your pet leftovers. While it might seem like a nice treat, it can lead to serious issues like pancreatitis, which is inflammation of the digestive gland. Stick to their usual diet to keep things running smoothly.

Keeping Your Older Pets Comfortable:

For dogs with arthritis, comfort is key. A soft bed is a must, and they might need a little help navigating stairs. Starting their day with a gentle massage can really help ease their stiff muscles.

The Information Below is Just a Starting Point:

Remember, if your pup is sick, the first thing you should do is contact your vet. They can provide the best advice tailored to your dog's specific situation.



Dealing with Vomiting and Diarrhoea

When your dog starts vomiting or has diarrhoea, it's often a sign of a tummy upset. This can happen for various reasons, including infections or a sudden change in diet. If you need to switch up their food, do it gradually over at least three days by mixing in small amounts of the new food with the old.

To help prevent scavenging, make sure to secure your trash cans, and consider using a muzzle during walks in parks. Also, steer clear of giving bones—these can splinter and cause all sorts of gastrointestinal troubles.

If your dog is vomiting frequently, feeling weak, or seems lethargic, it's time to call the vet. For dogs that are still bright and eager to eat, here's some advice to follow:

1. **Hydration is Key:**

If your pup is vomiting, make sure they don't gulp down a ton of water at once, as this can lead to more vomiting. Instead, offer small amounts of cooled, boiled water frequently.

2. **Feeding After Vomiting:**

If they can't keep food down, skip one meal but keep water accessible. When you do start feeding again, try small portions of bland foods like boiled chicken or fish with some white rice. If all goes well, gradually mix in their regular food over the next few days.

3. **For Diarrhoea:**

Continue to feed them but switch to that same bland diet. If diarrhoea sticks around for more than a day or two, get in touch with your vet for advice.

Caring for Dogs with Long-term Conditions



Older dogs often face ongoing health issues that may require extra care at home. Keep a close eye on their condition, and if you notice a decline, discuss options with your vet. Also, ensure you have enough medication on hand for holidays or weekends. If you don't understand the dosage instructions, ask your vet—it's important!

And remember, it's crucial for your senior pet to have easy access to water. If they're having trouble standing or walking, position their water bowl so they can reach it easily.

If your pup isn't eating, don't leave uneaten food around. Instead, pick it up and offer something different later—think tasty options like fresh chicken, gravy, or even cat food! Sometimes warming their food can make it more enticing.

Extra Comfort for Your Furry Friend



Make sure your pet has a cozy, warm place to rest with thick bedding. If you're using a heating pad, cover it up to prevent burns and turn your pet every couple of hours to keep them comfortable. For pets that can't move much, check for soiling and clean them gently with baby shampoo. If you need to use a hairdryer, make sure it's on the lowest setting and held far enough away to avoid burns.

Daily grooming can really lift their spirits, so don't skip it!

Arthritis Care

For dogs suffering from arthritis, a soft bed and assistance with movement are crucial. Massage can help too! On tough days, limit their time outside to bathroom breaks, and consider a heating pad during colder months. Never give your dog human medications—always stick to what your vet prescribes.

Managing Skin Issues

If your dog is licking at wounds or sores, it's time to intervene. Licking only makes things worse! Use an Elizabethan collar to prevent this, and if they're scratching, try putting socks on their paws or a T-shirt on their body. Bathing in cool salt water or applying soothing treatments like witch hazel can help until you can visit the vet. And remember, the most effective flea treatments come from your vet.

Giving Medication: A How-To

When it comes to giving medications, preparation is key! Gather everything you need beforehand to avoid a game of chase around the house. It's often helpful to have someone hold your dog still while you administer their treatment. For smaller dogs, wrapping them in a towel can help keep them secure.

For Tablets:

Hiding the tablet in a strong-tasting treat can be effective, just make sure it doesn't need to be given on an empty stomach. Foods like cheese or cat food can work wonders. If you're using a palatable version of the medication, keep it stored safely away from your pup!

Eye Drops and Ointments:

Start by cleaning any discharge from your dog's eye. Hold the eyelids open firmly and bring the medication towards the eye from the side. For drops, one drop directly into the eye will do—just avoid touching the eye. For ointments, lay a trail of ointment across the eye surface. Don't forget to reward them afterward!

Ear Medication:

When dealing with ear treatments, it can be useful to have a helper ready with a treat. Lift the ear flap and apply the directed amount of medication. Gently massage the base of the ear to help the medication work its way down.



With these tips in hand, you can feel more confident in caring for your furry companion when they're under the weather. Always remember, your vet is your best resource when it comes to your pet's health!